

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Editorial Offices—3640 University Street, Montreal

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EDITORIAL

THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION

FOR many years the Association has studied the problem of medical economics. A series of principles was gradually evolved, but no clear

policy was outlined. It is realized now that the trend of events is unquestionably towards some form of governmental control of medical services, and it is therefore imperative that we should decide what we want and formulate some policy of our own. As a result of prolonged discussion at the Council meeting in Saskatoon such a policy was eventually outlined. It is laid down in the following statement which was adopted by the General Council of the Canadian Medical Association on June 14, 1949.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. *The Canadian Medical Association, recognizing that health is an important element in human happiness, reaffirms its willingness in the public interest to consider any proposals, official or unofficial, which are genuinely aimed at the health of the people.*
2. *Among the factors essential to the people's health are adequate nutrition, good housing and environmental conditions generally, facilities for education, recreation and leisure; and not least, wise and sensible conduct of the individual and his acceptance of personal responsibility.*
3. *It is recognized and accepted that the community's responsibility in the field of health includes responsibility not only for a high level of environmental conditions and an efficient preventive service, but a responsibility for ensuring that adequate medical facilities are available to every member of the community, whether or not he can afford the full cost.*
4. *Accordingly, the Canadian Medical Association will gladly co-operate in the preparation of detailed schemes which have as their object the removal of any barriers which exist between the people and the medical services they need and which respect the essential principles of the profession.*
5. *The Canadian Medical Association hopes that the provincial surveys now being conducted will provide information likely to be of value in the elaboration of detailed schemes.*
6. *The Canadian Medical Association, having approved the adoption of the principle of health insurance, and having seen demonstrated the practical application of this principle in the establishment of voluntary prepaid medical care plans, now proposes:*
 - (a) *The establishment and/or extension of these plans to cover Canada.*
 - (b) *The right of every Canadian citizen to insure under these plans.*
 - (c) *The provision by the State of the health insurance premium, in whole or in part, for those persons who are adjudged to be unable to provide these premiums for themselves.*
7. *Additional services should come into existence by stages, the first and most urgent stage being the meeting of the costs of hospitalization for every citizen of Canada. The basic part of the cost should be met by individual contribution, the responsible governmental body bearing, in whole or in part, the cost for those persons who are unable to provide the contribution for themselves.*